

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3231

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE CONTINUES

REF: A. ASUNCION 2261

B. AUSNCION 2260

C. AUSNCION 2233

SUMMARY. FOREIGN MISISTRY UNDER SECRETARY JUNE 7 CONTINUED THE SERIES OF COLORADO PARTY-SPONSORED HUMAN RIGHTS LECTURES CONCEN- TRATING ON THE U.S. HE REPEATED THE STANDARD COMPLAINTS REGARDING U.S. SINS IN IMPLEMENTING ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. HE ALSO ACCUSED OPPOSITIONISTSO F MAINTAININGPRECARIOUS CONTACTS WITH EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN THE U.S. THE PRESS WAR HAS RESUMED, THIS TIME OFFICIALDOM IS ATTACKING THE "AUTHENTIC"RADICAL/LIBERALS' STATE- MENT IN SUPPORT OF EX-DUPUTY DOMINGO LAINO. PARAGUAY IS WIT- NESSING ITS FIRST PUBLIC POLITICAL DEBATE IN A LONG TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY, FRANCISCO BARREIRO MAFFIODO, GAVE THE SECOND LECTURE, TITLED "HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE UNITED STATES", IN THE CURRENT SERIES BEING SPONSORED BY A COLORADO PARTY FRONT ORGANIZATION. THE SPEECH INCLUDED THE STANDARD PARAGUAYAN COMPLAINTS: THE U.S. APPLIES A DOUBLE STANDARD IN ITS APPROACH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH IGNORES THE EVILS OF ITS ADVERSARIES WHILE PUNISHING ITS LONG-TIME FRIENDS AND ALLIES; THE U.S. DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE CONTINUING CONSPIRACY BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM AGAINST THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, AS DEMONSTRATED BY EVENTS IN CUBA AND CHILE; AND THE USC'S USE OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE IN CONNECTION WITH ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS INTERVENTION IN ANOTHER COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. PART OF THE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO ATTACKING OPPOSITION LEADERS' "SLANDEROUS" ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE PARAGUAY AND CLAIMING THAT THAT "MANAGE A PERFECTLY ORGANIZED INFORMATION NETWORK CONNECTED WITH SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES." ADMITTING THAT HE CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE TRUTH OF IT, THE UNDER SECRETARY STATED HIS BELIEF THAT PARAGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PRESIDENT CAMEN DE LARA CASTRO HAS "REPEATEDLY VISITED THE UNITED STATES... AND CONTACTED EXTREMIST ELEMENTS THERE WHO ARE WAGING A VIOLENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST PARAGUAY'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE." HE GOES ON: "I AM AWARE THAT STORIES SENT BY THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPONENTS... END UP IN THE LARGE FILE KEPT BY SENATOR KENNEDY ON LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. I AM ALSO AWARE THAT THERE ARE OPPONENTS WHO LIVE PEACEFULLY IN OUR COUNTRY AND WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTAINS, WHO SEND LIES ABROAD WHICH ARE LATER PUBLISHED BY THE U.S. PRESS."

3. AFTER A ONE-DAY BREATHER, THE OFFICIAL PRESS CAMPAIGN HAS REVIVED, DIRECTED NOW AGAINST THE "AUTHENTIC"RADICAL/LIBERALS' ADVERTISEMENT IN SUPPORT OF DOMINGO LAINO'S PRESS STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON. THE JUNTA DEL GOBIERNO, WHICH CONSISTS OF THE COLORADO PARTY HIERARCHY, TOOK OUT ITS OWN FULL-PAGE ADS TO REFUTE THE RADICAL/LIBERALS' STATEMENTS. IT ALSO REPEATED THE OFFICIAL ARGUMENT THAT REQUESTING THE USE OF OUTSIDE PRESSURE THROUGH THE WITHHOLDING OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTING FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN PARAGUAY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS ACTION WILL NOT AFFECT THE POSI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT ONLY ITS EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE THE SPACE OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE POOR PARAGUAYANS.

4. COMMENT: BARRIERO MAFFIODO'S COMMENTS REGARDING OPPOSITION CONTACTS IN THE U.S. MAY BE A VEILED WARNING. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOP WILL TAKE ANY OVERT ACTION AGAINST THE OPPOSITION AT THIS TIME WITH THE OASGA APPROACHING. INDIRECT HARRASSMENT MIGHT BE USED. ASIDE FROM THE VITUPERATION, THE EXCHANGE OF ADS IN THE DAILY PRESS IS, IN FACT, AN EXCHANGE ON DIFFERENT POLITICAL POSITIONS WHICH MAKES IT THE FIRST PUBLIC POLITICAL DEBATE IN PARAGUAY FOR A LONG TIME.
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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